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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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INFO USIA WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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E.O.11652; N/A
TAGS; PGOV, GE
SUBJECT; GDR MEDIA TREATMENT OF THE U.S.

REF; BERLIN 7510

1. GDR MEDIA CONTINUES TO GIVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEUTROM BOMB, THE TRIAL OF THE WILMINGTON TEN AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND STRIKES IN THE US. COVERAGE OF THE NEUTRON BOMB CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE, OF A DAILY CHARACTER AND ALSO PROMINENT
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IN RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS. IN GENERAL, THE GDR MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED TO REPEAT CRITICAL STORIES ON THESE TOPICS COMING FROM THE WESTERN PRESS AND TO REPORT SOVIET CRITICISM OF US POLICY ON THE NEUTRON BOMB AND THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.

2. RECENTLY, HOWEVER, INDEPENDENT COMMENTARY ON THESE

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ISSUES HAS BEGUN TO APPEAR. NEUES DEUTSCHLAND OF 2 AUGUST CARRIED AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. STEFAN DOERNBERG, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE GDR COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION, IN WHICH DOERNBERG CRITICIZED THE US FOR VIOLATING THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS BY DEVELOPING NEW WEAPONS SUCH AS THE NEUTRON BOMB AND INITIATING A NEW SPIRAL IN THE ARMS RACE. HE NEVERTHELESS EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ON THE SUBJECT OF THE CSCE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE BALANCE OF POWER HAS BEEN SHIFTING IN FAVOR OF THE SOCIALIST STATES.

3. THE LAST TWO ISSUES OF HORIZONT, THE WEEKLY FOREIGN AFFAIRS PUBLICATION BACKED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAVE CARRIED PROMINENT, SIGNED COMMENTARIES DIRECTLY CRITICAL OF CURRENT US POLICY. THE FIRST ARTICLE BY GUNTER LEUSCHNER CONTAINS A STANDARD RECITATION OF THE EAST EUROPEAN VIEW OF THE HELSINKI PROCESS AND OPINES THAT US WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. LEUSCHNER DOES NOT BALANCE THIS CRITICISM WITH THE KIND OF OPTIMISM VOICED BY DOERNBERG.

4. A COMMENTARY ENTITLED "POKER WITH BOMBS?" BY CARL-FRIEDRICH REINHARDT IN THE CURRENT HORIZONT IS MUCH MORE HARSHLY CRITICAL OF US POLICY THAN ANYTHING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE HAVE SEEN FROM EAST GERMAN ORIGINS SINCE THE OUT-BREAK OF THE NEUTRON BOMB CONTROVERSY. REINHARDT LINKS THE NEUTRON BOMB DIRECTLY WITH HIROSHIMA IN A BROAD AND SOMETIMES SARCASTIC CONDEMNATION OF THE US MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE CANCELLATION OF THE B-1 PROJECT HE CITES THE CRUISE MISSILE, NEW GENERATIONS OF ICBM'S AND NEW NUCLEAR SUBMARINES AS EVIDENCE THAT THE US IS INVOLVED IN A MAJOR ESCALATION OF THE ARMS RACE AT THE SAME TIME AS TEN MILLION AMERICAN WORKERS ARE UNEMPLOYED. SEEING NOTHING BUT WARLIKE INTENTIONS AND PLOTS IN US POLICY AND AN UNQUENCHABLE PROFIT MOTIVE IN AMERICAN ENTERPRISE, REINHARDT CONCLUDES THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS BROTHER STATES MUST REMAIN EVER VIGILANT AND PREPARED.

5. THE SAME ISSUE OF HORIZONT CONTAINS A POLITICAL CARTOON CARICATURING PRESIDENT CARTER AS THE STATUE OF LIBERTY WITH A TABLET CALLING FOR ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN ONE HAND AND A NEUTRON BOMB HELD HIGH IN THE OTHER. THIS KIND OF PERSONAL CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT IS UNUSUAL FOR THE GDR PRESS AND REFLECTS THE

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EXTENT TO WHICH THE NEUTRON BOMB ISSUE IS BEING
EXPLOITED IN THE MEDIA HERE GENERALLY. POLANSKY

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